



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

APR 04 2018

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable David A. Condon
Mayor, City of Spokane
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, Washington 99201-3335

Dear Mayor Condon:

Thank you for your letter dated March 26, 2018, and for the opportunity to meet in person on March 28. I appreciate you taking the time to write to me and sharing with me your concerns regarding the federally promulgated PCB criterion of 7 picograms/Liter for protection of human health in Washington. The City of Spokane has made significant financial and environmental investments in recent years to influence meaningful water quality improvements of the Spokane River. I am encouraged by your efforts and engagement in addressing the PCBs issue. Your letter also requested the EPA's support, in coordination with the Department of Ecology, of a path forward for implementation that may consist of a water quality standard variance.

I would like to confirm the EPA's continued commitment to work with the City and other interested parties through our participation in the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force. We also have dedicated staff resources in Region 10 and at Headquarters to assist Ecology with implementing the regulatory tools approved by the EPA, such as compliance schedules and water quality standards variances. For example, the EPA staff recently participated in a stakeholder meeting hosted by Ecology to provide information regarding the variance process and answer questions. Regardless of which regulatory pathway Ecology chooses to use, we remain invested in providing ongoing support to ensure regulatory certainty and implementation flexibility as the process to reduce the levels of toxic pollutants, including PCBs, moves forward.

I really enjoyed meeting you and your staff, and the chance to hear directly about your concerns when I visited Spokane last week. In addition to continuing to support Ecology on permitting, the EPA will remain engaged in the Task Force to advance strategies in the Comprehensive Plan, and will follow up on the work you mentioned that is underway in Europe. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Dan Opalski, Director of the Office of Water & Watersheds. You can reach Dan at (206) 553-1855 or Opalski.Dan@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hladick", is written over a horizontal line.

Chris Hladick
Regional Administrator